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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 17, 2010

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket 10-148 Implementation of Section 203 of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010

Dear Commissioners:

I write to request that you consider in this rulemaking reforms that can provide relief to the residents of La Plata and Montezuma Counties to enable them to obtain more in-state broadcasts. Many of my constituents feel that there are steps that can be taken in this rulemaking to alter the definition of 'significantly viewed' in order to provide broadcast relief to residents of Southwest Colorado. I therefore encourage your Commission to look at any and all avenues for reform on this issue which can be addressed in the scope of this rulemaking and any future rulemakings as well.

The definitions that surround significantly viewed are one avenue where reform could be achieved. I ask your agency to consider lowering the percentage of households that must view a broadcast in a county for a station to have significantly viewed status, down to 2.5% from the current 3%. I also ask you to consider allowing both cable and satellite broadcasts to be considered in the definition of significantly viewed stations. This is important in a county like La Plata that has very limited over the air broadcast options. One other option I ask the Commission to consider is allowing 'orphan counties' such as La Plata and Montezuma to have the right to have at least one station from in-state considered as significantly viewed. This would allow the residents of Southwest Colorado to have at least one in-state viewing option.

I believe this rulemaking and others in the near future present an opportunity to address this issue and I look forward to working with you on the details of this request with your staff during the reply period for this rulemaking. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

John Salazar
Member of Congress

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